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WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

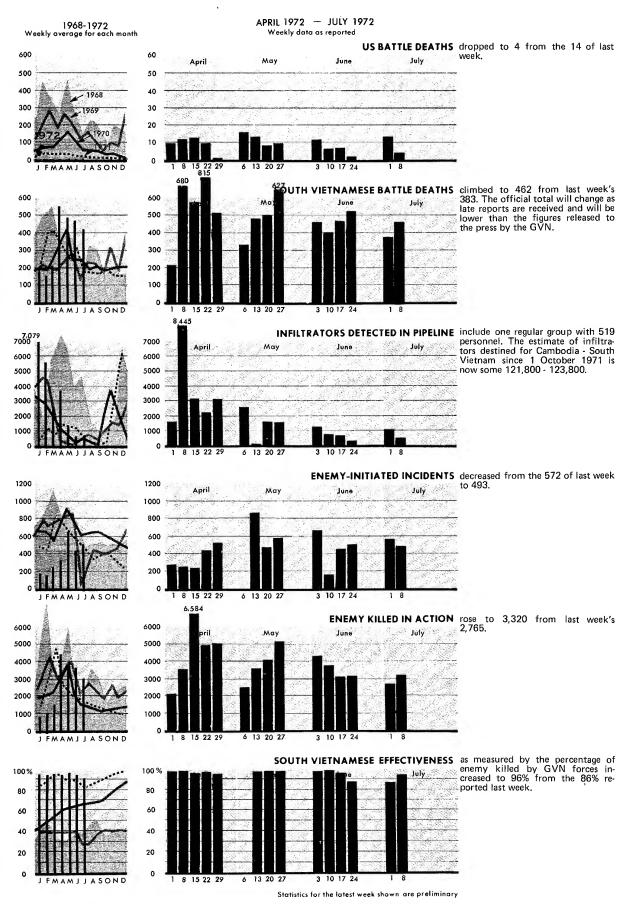
Week Ending 8 July 1972

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS



FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, the Communists continue to resist GVN efforts to move deeper into Quang Tri Province and are preparing for counterattacks. Some friendly units have entered Quang Tri City itself, but no concerted assault has yet been mounted on the remaining Communist positions within the city. West of Hue, the enemy continues to harass friendly forces, but no large-scale Communist assault against Hue appears imminent. Military Regions 2 and 3 remained quiet with only harassment activity noted in the Kontum, Binh Dinh, and An Loc areas. In the northern Delta, the Communists have maintained their pressure on Kien Tuong and Dinh Tuong Provinces, but most of the enemy-initiated activity has been fairly small in scale.

There was little fighting in most of Cambodia during the week. A Cambodian force remained surrounded by the Communists at Angtassom, and FANK units made only slow progress in attempting to relieve the town's garrison. Farther east, a Cambodian-South Vietnamese operation to retake Kompong Trabek and reopen part of Route 1 also made little progress as heavy rains hampered the advance of friendly forces.

Contact in northern Laos has been light, but 1,300 fresh government irregulars have now moved into positions southwest of the Plain of Jars where they are to assist other government troops in clearing the enemy from the Phou Pha Sai area. In the Lao Panhandle, government irregulars continued to encounter stiff resistance to their attempts to clear the Khong Sedone area. The enemy appears to be consolidating his forces north of the city for renewed counterattacks against government defensive positions. Additionally, elements of an enemy regiment, now located to the south on the Bolovens Plateau, are moving to reinforce the Communists near Khong Sedone.

Enemy Infiltration and Logistics

Personnel infiltration remained at a very low level with only one regular group detected during the week. The estimate of NVA infiltrators destined for Cambodia and South Vietnam since 1 October 1971 now stands at 121,800 - 123,800.

In North Vietnam, the new pipeline being constructed to the Chinese border may be a dual one. If a second pipeline is installed along the entire length, simultaneous movement of two petroleum products vitally needed by Hanoi -- motor gasoline and diesel fuel -- would be possible. Through rail traffic to Hanoi from the Chinese border remains blocked, but the North Vietnamese continue to make major efforts to switch from rail to road transport for priority cargo moving from China to southern North Vietnam. Thirteen new transportation battalions have recently been identified operating in North Vietnam. The 900 to 1,100 trucks believed subordinate to these battalions could theoretically move some 200 to 300 tons per day. In late June, some of these battalions were moving ammunition at or above the level needed to sustain operations at the current level in northern GVN MR 1. Present evidence suggests that between 20 June and 4 July, nearly 1,300 tons of materiel had been delivered to NVA Rear Services units in the Hue area.

